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# Selectmen Controversy in Dracut




**PAGE 8 & 9**


Dracut Selectman Alison Genest has comes under fire for “conflicts of Interest, by a political foe. Genest says the state has already cleared her in the matter




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State Rep.  
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# VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Lawrence native Art Jacobs, US Army Silver Star and Three Purple Heats

John Cuddy  
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Little did I know that my previous story about US Army Medic Steve Bird from Groveland, and his brave efforts to treat the wounded on the battlefields of Vietnam in 1968, would lead me to this feature about Art Jacobs, who was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and grew up in Salem, New Hampshire, Hartford, Connecticut, and Springfield,

Massachusetts. Art was a US Army helicopter pilot who served two one-year tours in Vietnam. Steve sent Art a copy of the “The Valley Patriot” because Art was piloting the Medevac helicopter attempting to rescue the wounded from Steve’s unit one fateful day. It is indeed a small world. Art’s dad graduated from Lawrence High School with the class of 1944 and joined the US Army Air Force. Art was born in 1946 when his dad

returned from Germany, heard all his father’s stories, and always wanted to be a military pilot. This story is best told in Art’s own words:

“It is true that Steve Bird’s life and mine crossed paths that day in July 1968, but in coincidental ways we had not imagined. The part of the story that is just as fascinating to me, and that Steve left out, is that although we were two young men some 9,000 miles away from Massachusetts, Steve was from Groveland and I was born in the neighboring City of Lawrence!

Until I was in the second grade, we lived in a cottage on Millville Pond in Salem Depot, New Hampshire. My dad took a job in Hartford, and two years after living in Connecticut, we moved to Springfield, where I graduated from high school in 1964. A funny sidelight; in the Summer of 1963, my uncle took me camping with him on Lake Winnepesaukee near Wolfeboro. I met a young lady there who was from Haverhill. Her name was Yvette Nolin, she attended St. Joseph’s, and I took her to my senior prom the following June. (If Yvette is still in the area, I hope she knows that she was the first girl I ever fell in love with.) I joined the US Army out of high school, spent a year on the DMZ in Korea, and then applied and was accepted to flight school. I volunteered for Air Rescue training upon graduation, and was assigned to



fly a UH-1 Iroquois “Huey” Helicopter as a Medevac pilot in Vietnam.”

Art’s first tour was with the 15th Medical Battalion of the First Air Cavalry, starting in December of 1967, serving first at LZ (Landing Zone) English, later at the 1st Cav base at Camp Evans, outside of Hue, Vietnam. He flew upwards of seven or eight Medevac missions a day for almost an entire year.

A moving experience, listening to Art,



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# Five New Contributors To Educate Our Readers

One thing we are most of proud of here at The Valley Patriot is that we provide our readers information directly from the newsmakers themselves without the filtered agenda of an editorial board.

Since 2004 we have always afforded elected officials the opportunity to get their message out about what is happening in local and state government.

With the election of so many new officials in the valley last November, we are happy to welcome five new monthly columnists to educate the public about their government. They are:

State Rep. Ryan Hamilton is a former Methuen City Councilor who is succeeding Rep. Linda Dean Campbell representing Haverhill and Methuen. His column is below.

State Rep. Estela Reyes - (Methuen and Lawrence). Reyes is a city councilor in Lawrence representing District “B” and works for Home Health VNA. She won her campaign last November against Methuen Councilor Jim McCarty. Her Column is on Page 15. You can reach her at EstelaAreyes17@gmail.com.

State Rep. Adrienne Ramos - North Andover, Boxford, Groveland, and Amesbury, and West Newbury. A North Andover resident, Ramos defeated Joe Finn (also of North Andover) last November. This is her first term as a State Rep. and was named one of Boston

Magazine’s Top Lawyers for 2021. She is a Partner at the law firm Prince Lobel. Her column is on page 15. You can reach her at Adrienne.ramos@mahouse.gov

State Rep. Francisco Paulino (Lawrence and Methuen). Paulino is a Methuen resident, a small business owner and a landlord in the City of Lawrence. He defeated incumbent Marcos Devers in November. This is his first term as a State Rep. His column is on page 15. Contact: fpaulino@paulino4staterepresentative.com.

State Senator Pavel Payano (Lawrence, Methuen, and Haverhill). Pavel Payano is an At-Large (city wide) City Councilor and a former member of the Lawrence School Committee.

This is his first term as a state senator as he replaces Diana DiZoglio - who was just elected State Auditor. He defeated Methuen City Councilor Eunice Zeigler and Lawrence Activist Doris Ortiz. You can reach him at pavelpayano@gmail.com.

State Auditor Diana DiZoglio - Diana lives in Methuen and is a former state rep. and state senator. DiZoglio will continue to do her monthly column as the new State Auditor bringing more transparency to the people of Massachusetts about how their government’s money is being spent. Her column is on page 4.

You can contact her at diana@dianadizoglio.com ♦

## I’m Here to Represent Methuen and Haverhill

Ryan Hamilton  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

First off, I would like to take a moment to thank Tom Duggan and all of those at the Valley Patriot for the opportunity to write a monthly column in their paper.

The readership of the Valley Patriot makes up a significant group of constituents in Haverhill, Methuen, and throughout the Merrimack Valley. I, for one, am happy to have an open dialogue with you all. Part of that open dialogue is being accessible to the residents of Haverhill and Methuen. That is why I implore all the residents of my district to contact me at [Ryan.Hamilton@mahouse.gov](mailto:Ryan.Hamilton@mahouse.gov) when they have questions or need assistance.

The purpose of occupying this office is to listen and advocate for those who elected me, no matter what their concern may be. So please reach out if you need help.

I look forward to interacting and assisting you with whatever inquiry you have.

Secondly, I would like to thank Representative Linda Dean Campbell for all she has done for our country



during her time in the Army, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a State Representative. Linda has been a constant in advocating and delivering for Haverhill and Methuen during her time in the legislature, and for that, we owe her our gratitude and appreciation

My name is Ryan Hamilton, State Representative for the 15th Essex district which includes both Haverhill and Methuen. As of the time of my writing this, I have had the privilege of being your Representative for five days.

My first few days in the State House have allowed me to witness history.

On Wednesday, I was sworn in as

the youngest member of the House of Representatives and cast my first vote to continue Ron Mariano’s leadership of our caucus, and state as Speaker of the House.

Then on Thursday, I had a front-row seat to a first in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with the swearing-in of Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. Governor Healey being the first female ever elected to the position of Governor in Massachusetts.

I look forward to serving with the Healey Driscoll administration, and I am hopeful for all the good we will do together for the people of Haverhill

and Methuen.

Now, looking towards the future. The next few weeks will be busy.

It will be a time at which I will be submitting my first pieces of legislation and being given my committee assignments.

I will be hosting my first office hours. I will set up my government social media accounts to further share updates with the residents of Methuen and Haverhill.

All these exciting new opportunities will be shared with the readers of the Valley Patriot during the March issue once the specifics have been confirmed.

It’s an exciting time to be in public service; the future of the Merrimack Valley and the Commonwealth looks bright. I look forward to continuing our dialogue in the Valley Patriot. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if my office can be of service to you.

Ryan Hamilton is a former Methuen City Councilor and is in his first year of his first term as a State Rep. for the communities of Methuen and Haverhill. You can email him at [Ryan.Hamilton@mahouse.gov](mailto:Ryan.Hamilton@mahouse.gov). ♦



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The Valley Patriot can be found in more than 800 locations in 48 communities in Massachusetts and NH.

The Valley Patriot is not responsible for, nor do we necessarily share the opinions of columnists and contributors that are published in the paper. Columns, by definition, are opinion pieces.



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IN YOUR CORNER with AUDITOR DIZOGLIO

Continuing to Fight for Working Families in the Auditor’s Office

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

It has been a true honor and pleasure serving the great people of the Merrimack Valley in the Massachusetts Legislature. Every day, I’ve walked out my door in the morning determined to make meaningful progress and change that helps people at home. This public service has been fueled by a desire to make a difference and by the responsibility I’ve felt to reward persons’ faith in me to serve as State Representative and State Senator.

Together, we have made a difference on issues of tremendous importance to our community, including supporting our public schools with the local aid they need; fighting for funding toward resources and services for our seniors and veterans; passing campaign finance reform to increase transparency and accountability in elections; reducing prescription and health care costs; and providing our residents and small businesses with sorely needed resources to get through the pandemic.

My paramount goal has always been and will continue to be to ensuring residents’ voices are heard loud and clear on Beacon Hill. This will continue to be the case as I make the transition from the Senate to my new role as State Auditor.

In this role, I am committed to building upon the work we’ve done in the Legislature to drive an agenda of transparency and accountability for the taxpayers and people who are served by our government. This means transparency and accountability, as well as performance.

In the State Auditor’s Office, our team will work to improve the performance of your government and report on what’s going right and what’s going wrong, so you know what is being done with your tax dollars. Taxpayers spend billions each year on state government, public education, the T and quasi-governmental agencies. You deserve accountability.

Over the coming months, I look forward to continuing conversations with residents across Massachusetts as we work to ensure all working families have access to and accountability from our state government, regardless of family background, bank balance or



zip code.

I am excited to announce that helping to lead this mission into the Auditor’s Office will be my transition director, Sasha Weinreich of North Andover. A graduate of Babson College and Brandeis University, Sasha served as chair of the North Andover Finance Committee and currently serves as the Director of Portfolio Management for the real estate firm Eden Properties and President and Director of Cyrus Holding Co., with extensive experience in finance and operations. A tireless advocate for transparency in our state government, including reforms around taxpayer-funded nondisclosure agreements, Sasha will play an integral role in helping us to hit the ground running.

As I depart the Senate and transition into the Auditor’s Office, I want to again thank, from the bottom of my heart, the incredible people of the Merrimack Valley. Our communities are enriched by countless talented, thoughtful and caring people who inspire me and fill me with joy because of what they do to make a positive difference for so many.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year and look forward to getting to work!

If you have any questions on these or any other issues, please feel free to contact me anytime via email at [diana@dianadizoglio.com](mailto:diana@dianadizoglio.com) or phone at 978-984-7747.

Yours in service, Diana ♦



Nicole Roberge graduated from Women’s View last year, stands with CEO Carina Pappalardo, and Program Director Donna Kivlin.

Pegasus House and Women’s View Receive \$10K Grant for Educational Programming

LAWRENCE — Chief Executive Officer Carina Pappalardo is pleased to share that the The Psychological Center, Inc., received a \$10,000 grant from the Perpetual Trust for Charitable Giving to fund continued educational programs at Pegasus House and Women’s View.

Grant funds, which are managed and distributed by Bank of America Philanthropic Solutions, will support programs on topics such as financial self-sufficiency, self-care, and medical care, increasing self-esteem, employment training, cooking, and family reunification.

Educational programs are aimed at improving guests’ self-sufficiency and education, as well as preparing them to find housing and to successfully live in recovery.

“Preparing our guests for life after their stay at Pegasus House and Women’s View is a key component of our strategy for getting women back on their feet as successful members of society, and it is a true blessing to watch as each woman grows in their own recovery and graduates with honor and gratitude,” said CEO Pappalardo. “We appreciate these grant funds tremendously and look forward to continuing our efforts to provide both education and hope to all of our guests.” ♦



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# I’m Here to Service Your Needs In The 14th District

**Adrianne Ramos**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 14TH DIST.

On January 4th, I took the oath of office to serve as your state representative of the new 14th Essex District.

As I embark on this endeavor, I wanted to take a moment to re-introduce myself and to let you know what this means to me.

I plan to work each day to help make the 14th a better place to live for our families. As a practicing attorney and mother of three children, I felt my personal and professional experiences and skills made me well-suited for the job.

While on the campaign trail, I had the opportunity to speak with constituents throughout the district to hear about your concerns and learn about what matters most to you.

Several themes emerged: funding education, additional resources to address the addiction crisis, improving access to mental health providers, improving infrastructure, and increased environmental protections. Over the next few weeks, while I await my committee assignments and look to address those same themes through new legislation, my team and I will be answering your questions and constituent needs across the district.

After years of legal practice, spanning from time in the judiciary, to work with a non-profit organization, and now in private practice, I’ve had the privilege and honor of helping families through difficult times and I’ve also seen how our



systems can fail individuals and families every day. This is what drove me to seek public office; to effect the change that matters and help make a difference for our communities, together.

I’m looking forward to the next two years and representing you each and every day. My team and I are here for you. I can be reached at [Adrianne. ramos@mahouse.gov](mailto:adrianne.amos@mahouse.gov).

Please don’t hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns or to learn more about me or my goals for this session.

Respectfully,  
Adrianne

State Representative Adrianne Ramos is in her first year of a two-year term as the state representative for Boxford, North Andover, Amesbury, Groveland, and West Newbury. You can email her at [Adrianne.ramos@mahouse.gov](mailto:Adrianne.ramos@mahouse.gov). ◇



## Home Health Aide Lillian Silva Delivers Different Kind of Caring

LAWRENCE - As a home health aide for 29 years at Tufts Medicine Care at Home, Lillian Silva supports her patients by assisting with their personal care and other daily living activities. On her days off, the dedicated caregiver extends her compassionate caring to the wider community as a volunteer with Lasagna Love.

Founded in March 2020 to ease the COVID pandemic-related struggles of families, Lasagna Love has grown into an international movement with thousands of people from all walks of life, diverse ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds who cook and deliver meals. The mission is not only to help address increasing food insecurity, but also provide a simple act of kindness during times of stress and uncertainty.

Silva signed up to volunteer for Lasagna Love after learning about the nonprofit organization in a Facebook group a few years ago. While she has no issues with others using the recipe printed on boxes of lasagna noodles, the self-taught cook has incorporated her own three-cheese blend with other special ingredients, measurements and techniques. When lasagna noodles disappeared from grocery store shelves during the pandemic, for example, she substituted layers of whatever other macaroni was available at the time.

Once Silva is matched with a recipient, Lasagna Love informs her of the number of people living in the home, as well as any dietary restrictions. Silva also welcomes special requests.

“I’ll make a lasagna with whatever kind of meat they want, or I’ll load it up

with peppers, onions, and mushrooms. I also ask if they like it thick or thin,” said Silva, estimating she has delivered at least 50 lasagnas to families in towns around her home in Dracut. “I’ve made so many that I could do it in my sleep, but I still ask for feedback because it helps me improve.”

Silva has brought lasagnas to parents of newborns, elderly residents, those recovering from hospitalizations, individuals who feel overwhelmed with no time to cook and others who are simply craving a hot, homemade meal. While she used to donate a lasagna weekly, she does so once or twice monthly now due to the increased cost of ingredients and disposable pans.

Silva, who will turn 65 in January, said she plans to continue volunteering even after she retires from working someday.

“Everybody is appreciative, and I enjoy getting to meet new people,” she said. “Every one of us benefits from a mission of goodwill.”

Tufts Medicine Care at Home, part of the Tufts Medicine health system, provides a full continuum of home health, palliative, and hospice care in home and community settings. Our highly skilled healthcare providers are renowned for their expertise in a wide range of cutting-edge clinical and supportive services for infants, children, adults, and elders. The Lawrence-based nonprofit organization delivers expert, compassionate care in more than 100 communities throughout the Merrimack Valley, northeastern Massachusetts, and southern New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.careathome.org](http://www.careathome.org). ◇

## Free Job Training Program in Advanced Manufacturing & Machining

with Bilingual Assistance offered in the Merrimack Valley

The MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board and Career Center, in partnership with the Greater Lawrence Technical School and the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium is hosting a FREE Advanced Manufacturing/Machinist training program beginning February 6, 2023. The training is designed for adults whose primary language is Spanish and would benefit from English-language support, in addition to the technical instruction.

The goal of the training is for non-native English speakers to build a sustainable capacity to fill manufacturing job openings in Lawrence, Haverhill, Newburyport, and throughout the Merrimack Valley. The plan is to train 15 adults over the next year for jobs that are in high demand and provide a future career pathway in manufacturing.

Training programs like this one have trained nearly 1,000 people for steady work in manufacturing jobs throughout the Northeast.

Frank Bonet, Executive Director of the Merrimack Valley Workforce Board said that manufacturing is the second-largest industry in the state and makes up about 15% of all jobs in the Northeast region and Merrimack Valley. “This career

pathway has so many opportunities for growth and stability across many sectors – pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical devices, aviation, plastics, and more,” Bonet said. “People should seriously look at the free training as a huge opportunity to change careers, or more importantly, start a new career.” Companies in the Merrimack Valley make athletic shoes, dental implants, jet engine parts, and other exciting products.

Previous trainee Kevin, a machine operator making dental implants, said “I like my job turning nothing into something”, and Christine, after telling a potential employer what she was learning in class, was offered a job before she even completed her training.

The program will run in the late afternoon and early evenings, Monday through Thursday, February 6 to June 29, 2023, with some online training as well. A 40-hour English “Bootcamp” will set the stage for 315 hours of technical training with bilingual assistance throughout. Job placement assistance will be available.

To learn more, call the MVCC at (978) 722-7000 to register for an information session, or visit the MVCC at 420 Common St, Lawrence, MA 01840. ◇





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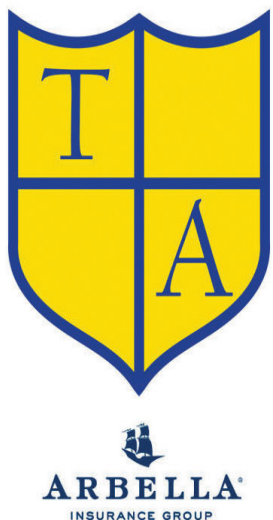


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### Mark Silvers, DMD

Dr. Mark Silvers' primary focus is to provide an exceptional patient experience. He utilizes technology, like intraoral photography and 3D imaging, to make the most accurate diagnosis possible and provide effective treatment solutions. For more than 15 years, he has practiced in a multi-specialty practice and taught as an Associate Professor at the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. He also served as the team dentist to the Boston Red Sox. In 2008, Dr. Silvers worked with colleagues at the Harvard Business School to discover more efficient ways to practice dentistry with fewer complications, better outcomes, and greater patient satisfaction.



### Ana Mateo, DMD

Dr. Mateo prides herself in her attentiveness to the needs of her patients and providing positive patient experiences while also providing them with quality comprehensive care. She is excited to join the team at Methuen Family Dentistry and to welcome you to the practice and help you reach your dental goals! Dr. Mateo attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts where she received her Bachelor's in Chemistry. She then completed her dental training at the Boston University School of Dental Medicine where she graduated magna cum laude. Following graduation, she completed a general practice residency at the University of Washington in Seattle.



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## Phil Thibault’s Accusations Are Outright Lies, There is No Conflict of Interest

By Allison Genest  
DRACUT SELECTMAN

Phil Thibault announced on his cable TV show that he would be publishing his article called “A Black Eye on Dracut” this month in the Valley Patriot. The column is factually incorrect and injurious to my reputation. The piece contains false statements about my voting record as a Dracut Selectman and libelous accusations alleging conflict of interest that are demonstrably untrue. Further, these statements are malicious because the author knows they are untrue.

First, I never opposed adding an at-large member to the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee. I supported it and voted for it.

Second, I have never had any conflict of interest on any matter that has come before the board. I was pre-cleared by the state Ethics Commission to participate and vote on any and all matters involving Beaver Brook Farm and Dracut Access Television because I do not have any financial interest in either matter. In both cases, I proactively contacted the Ethics Commission for legal review in advance. After approval from the Ethics Commission, I filed the appropriate



disclosures on both matters to dispel even the appearance of a conflict. I’m able to perform my official duties objectively and fairly, and I have been publicly transparent in these matters and all others. As an elected official, I have always conducted myself with the highest professional and ethical standards.

Dracut Selectman Alison Genest,  
*EDITORS NOTE: The column submitted by Mr. Thibault does not meet the legal standard of libel or slander even if some of the facts within his column are untrue or malicious. The Valley Patriot is happy to present all views on this issue and always, willing to present all sides of any political controversy. ♦*

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EYE ON DRACUT

Conflict of Interest Torpedoes Thibault in Dracut

By Brian Genest  
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

Here we go again: Cue the violins for Dracut’s self-proclaimed victim, Phil Thibault. This time, he’s lamenting because he was rejected by the Board of Selectmen for the newly created at-large seat on the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee—and he’s blaming everyone but himself, just like he always does. Meanwhile, the board majority cited conflict of interest, as Thibault is an architect who conducts business in town. But Thibault doesn’t like the truth to get in his way.

Right now, the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee is in the process of executing a major overhaul of the town’s zoning bylaws for the first time since the 1980s. Selectmen expressed concerns about Phil Thibault’s business interests in town, his past conflict of interest and the potential for future ones.

“I, in good conscience, can’t vote for this candidate for the appointment,” Selectman Jennifer Kopcinski told her colleagues, saying her concerns came from Thibault’s own words. “He resigned from a seat on the planning board after speaking with the state’s ethics commission, as his profession is an architect in town. As far as I know, his business is still operational.”

Kopcinski added that she felt appointing Thibault to the position would be setting the town up for issues in the future.

Chairman Alison Genest said she agreed with Kopcinski and expressed similar concerns.

“There was an admitted conflict of interest in 2016 where this applicant was a member of the planning board and, after a conversation with the ethics committee, he stepped down from the seat because of his professional career and his work as an architect in town,” Genest said. “I’m not just troubled by the fact that that’s a known conflict, but I’m also worried about any potential future conflicts that I think are too great to ignore.”

Selectman DiRocco also said he couldn’t vote for Thibault for the same reasons. “It could be, I’m not saying it is, I’m just saying it could be, a self-serving position for him on projects that are upcoming,” DiRocco said. “I think his

business could flourish from changing the bylaws to do certain things. To me, it’s a case of putting the fox in the hen house and I’m not going to support it.”

Thibault’s buddies on the board, of course, thought letting him serve, despite an obvious conflict, was a great idea. Selectman Tony Archinski said failing to appoint Thibault would be “despicable.” Selectman Santiago-Hutchings was “disappointed” that Thibault won’t be able to make the rules for those in town who hire him and fund his business.

Instead of reflecting inward, Phil Thibault lashed out, just like he always does. This time, he blames the board majority. He had his sob story published on a Lowell website, which included an editorial note saying he was a paid sponsor. Pay-to-play Phil wants you to believe the board’s vote was personal instead of factual. But it’s all true. In 2016, Thibault resigned from the Planning Board and then he went on his buddy Warren Shaw’s AM radio program to talk about it. Shaw’s sidekick Shawn Ashe posted the audio recording on his Dracut Forum blog. (<https://www.dracutforum.com/index.php/2016/08/28/phil-thibault-resigns-from-planning-board/>)

If there’s anyone with an ax to grind or an obvious grudge, it’s Phil Thibault. After all, he isn’t just a big victim, he’s also Dracut’s biggest loser. The perennial candidate has lost 9 town elections—one more defeat and he gets a set of steak knives. In addition to losing a race for Housing Authority, Thibault has come up short in eight elections for selectman, so far, in 2005, 2007, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2022. He’s lost electoral contests against all five current Selectmen, including three head-to-head matchups against Selectman Joe DiRocco.

Phil Thibault blames everyone but himself for that, too. During the 2022 town election, Thibault was calling Dracut sleepy. In 2021, Thibault said our town was starting to rot. Dracut voters keep sending the same message, but Thibault doesn’t want to hear it, apparently. Meanwhile, Thibault continues to align himself with some of the most nasty and negative voices in our town, those who constantly try to tear down Dracut. Thankfully, no one is buying what he’s selling—toxicity.

GENEST: PAGE 20

A Black Eye On Dracut

Philippe Thibault  
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

There are milestones and benchmarks that people inevitably use to measure the growth, stagnation and decline of a community. While most would stive to foster growth by raising standards, three members of the Dracut Board of Selectman have taken the approach to removal standards for themselves and thus be held unaccountable for stagnation and decline. I had to check my calendar after the December 13th Board of Selectmen meeting, I thought it was 1984! Truth is a lie, integrity is malfeasance, and accountability is subrogation.

I suspect if the Board of Selectmen had a Code of Conduct, the meeting would have been more professional. Both Heather Santiago-Hutchings and Tony Archinski have included a Code of Conduct in their goals for the Board of Selectmen, Tony just recently proposed language for the document. The other three: DiRocco, Kopcinski, and Genest would have no part of a code. The trio’s legal mind even concluded that “it would be just another piece of paper.” Imagine if their efforts were used to promote Dracut rather than themselves.

One of the most important goals highlighted by the Dracut Master Plan, is the review and rewrite of the Zoning Bylaws. The last full review was conducted in 1985. The Master Plan Committee concluded the old bylaws no longer reflect the growth potential and desires of the community. In a practical sense the bylaws are antiquated and are hindering Dracut’s progress. So, a Zoning Bylaw Review Committee was formed as an ad-hoc committee comprised of only members of existing boards. I was critical that no members of the public, “members at large” were included in the role of the committee. Selectmen Chair Genest was in opposition to the idea of at large members, claiming they would only slow down the process. I guess we can’t have the masses interfering with her government.

Selectperson Heather Santiago-Hutchings had finally secured appointments for at large members to the displeasure of Triade. I had applied for one of the appointments to the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee. I had an interview with the ZBRC to discuss my experience of planning and zoning: 14 years on the Planning Board, 3 years on the Master Plan Committee, 21 years with Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, 16 years on the Permanent Building Committee, 6 years on Capitol Planning, and 3 years on Community Preservation Committee. I appreciated the time the ZBRC granted to me and was humble to hear them say that my experience dwarfed the experience of the entire committee. The ZRBC voted unanimously to recommend my appointment to the Board of Selectmen.

Bringing us back to the December 13th meeting, sans Code of Conduct. Kopcinski, a self-proclaimed political newcomer, suddenly remembered



a 15-minute radio broadcast from 6 years prior, 2016, where I spoke of my resignation from the Planning Board. She eluded the resignation was because of a conflict of interest and further insinuated that the resignation was required by the State Ethics Commission. I had spoken with the Ethics Commission regarding a potential project that would need to be presented to the Dracut Planning Board. The determination from the Ethics Commission was that I would need to recuse myself from the proceedings. Several months prior to the project being presented, I chose to leave the Planning Board as a surety of removing controversy in a determination by the Planning Board. A conflict therefore never existed with my profession as an architect and service to the Town. But where there is no honor on the Board of Selectmen, good intensions are reasons enough to disparage volunteers. The three: DiRocco, Kopcinski, and Genest proceeded to create hypothetical situations and phantom conflicts to justify their denial, all based on a twisted false accusation. Further ironic since Chair Genest has been embroiled in unethical conduct and the Ethics Commission for seating herself as Chair for the Beaver Brook Farm Committee, a property she is an abutter to and appointing her husband to the Dracut Access Television board of directors, and organization the Town of Dracut has a contract as a cable access provider. In her defense, “these items were not on the agenda, and we can’t talk about them due to open meeting laws.”

The coup-de-gras of course is Genest questioning my lack of decorum and professional behavior. She points to my social media post. I have posted announcements about events in Dracut, along with sharing information from other sources:

The Lowell Sun, WCAP, and Inside Lowell.

These are often done without much editorial comment. Otherwise, Star Wars memes, Edward Hopper paintings, and inspirations quotes litter my pages.

Not everybody’s preference I’m sure, but not without its charm.

Perhaps her preference of editorials is more akin to her husband’s political slasher pieces in the Valley Patriot’s Eye on Dracut. Now that’s a low bar to crawl under. ◇



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Methuen Council Flip Flops on  
“Top Heavy Police Department”

Remember last year - when the Methuen City Council was attacking Police Chief Joe Solomon on a daily basis, feeding information to the Boston media claiming the police department was “too top heavy”?

Remember when they cut millions out of the police budget and laid off patrolmen and demoted superior officers because the cops were “making too much money”?

Remember that?  
You probably do, because most of you have brain cells that talk to each other. But, apparently members of the Methuen City Council have forgotten all of that - or at least they want you to - as they have now approved adding back a sergeant, a captain, and a lieutenant to the ranks of the Methuen Police.

You see how this works? When the chief is someone they hate, they tell YOU that the cops are being paid too much, they cut the police budget, enact layoffs, rail against excessive spending, and then - when that chief they hate is gone – they reinstate most of those positions and put money back in the police budget.

But, the city council didn’t just add back superior officers after two years of pounding their fists and calling for layoffs.

On top of all that, the Methuen City Council is now considering creating a brand-new superior officer’s position of Deputy Chief, as payback to Captain Randy Hagar who helped them push Joe Solomon into retirement.

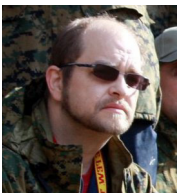
This newly created Deputy Chief’s position will pay Hagar \$221,241 a year. Well, for now. We all know that as the next few years go by that \$221K will

inevitably grow to \$300K and more.  
So, Methuen councilors wanted you to believe in 2022 that a police chief is not worth \$300K, but in 2023 a brand-new Deputy Chief’s position that never existed before IS worth nearly \$300K.  
That’s on top of the other three superior officers’ jobs they just approved.  
This is proof positive that the picture city councilors were painting for the public during the Joe Solomon years was dishonest at best. They just wanted Solomon gone at any cost.

And cost it did!  
Love him or hate him, this is not about Joe Solomon. It’s about the city council spinning lies and then doing a 100% reversal on those lies the minute they get what they really wanted.  
As for me, I’d double the pay of Hagar and every single Methuen cop if I had my way.

I have no problem paying cops that kind of money. These guys run towards the gunshots while the rest of us are running away. I would much rather pay cops that money given how much other people in government are making to shuffle paper around and never actually do anything.

My objection is the hypocrisy!  
It’s a slap in the face to the voters.  
Problem is, it doesn’t seem like Methuen voters even care. ♦

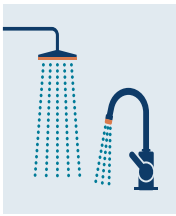


Tom Duggan is publisher of The Valley Patriot, the book “Heroes in Our Midst”, a former Lawrence School Committee member, and hosts the Paying Attention! Podcast which can be downloaded on iTunes, iHeartRadio, Spotify, & PodBean. Email your comments to valleypatriot@aol.com.

Methuen Village Gives  
Back with Winter Coat Drive

METHUEN, MA — Methuen Village Assisted Living embraced the true spirit of the holiday season this year. The senior community hosted a Winter Coat Drive throughout November and December, collecting much needed items like new or unused mittens, hats, socks, coats, and more. The donated items were sent to Lazarus House of Lawrence, whose aim is to provide families and individuals facing material poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity with the shelter, clothing, food, advocacy and resources they need. You can learn more about the work Lazarus House does at LazarusHouse.org. Information on Methuen Village can be found at www.MethuenVillage.com.

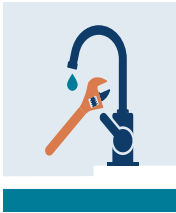
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  - Use a dishwasher, with full loads, instead of washing by hand. **Save up to 24 gallons per day.**



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KANE’S CORNER

New Year’s the History and Resolutions

KANE

VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT/COLUMNIST

Kane would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year, even though the horn party favor was absolutely terrifying. The other thing Kane found daunting was pressure to figure out a New Year’s Resolution. Exactly who thought up this tradition? How did it all start?

A December 21st, 2020, Article on the History Channel website by Sarah Pruitt titled” The Tradition of Celebrating New Year’s dates back to the Babylonians, 4,000 years ago. Kane wondered if they had annoying horn party favors. The Babylonians celebrated Akitu in March for 11 days that included crowning a new king or confirming the reign of the current king. Making resolutions included making promises to the Gods in exchange for being seen favorably by them in hopes for luck and plentiful crops. Now making resolutions to the Gods was associated with falling out of good favor.

Kane wondered so exactly how did the New Year Celebration end up in January? According to Sarah Pruitt’s article, in 46 BC Emperor Julius Caesar reformed the calendar and made January 1st the first day of the year. This was to honor the God Janus who’s two faces allowed him to look into the past and the future. ([http://www.history.com,Dec21.2020, History of New Year’s Resolution](http://www.history.com,Dec21.2020,History of New Year’s Resolution)) Kane was intrigued by having two faces maybe it would allow him to better look out for horn party favors

but really the draw to it would be both faces could eat, maybe at the same time.

Kane learned, in contrast to the Resolutions of the past modern day resolutions typically focus on self-improvement. So exactly how many people actually succeed in keeping their resolution? Kane found the research to be varied. For example, a Brain Institute Poll found 45% of Americans make New Year’s Resolutions and 8% succeed in achieving these goals. In contrast to this sad information, Kane learned that a Marist poll from 2017 of 1074 adults found that 66% of adults kept their New Year’s Resolution.(Old Farmer’s Almanac, <http://www.Almanac.com>) So although it would be great to find more consistent information, Kane decided that what really matters is what you personally choose for your unique self.

Kane learned that the top 10 resolutions have not changed much in the last century. According to a Gallup Poll comparing and contrasting New Year’s Resolutions from 1947 to now, well 2017 these are the top 10 resolutions. ( Catherine Boeckmann, Dec 20,2022, [almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com), “ The Interesting History Behind New Year’s Resolutions)

1947

- 1. Control Temper
- 2. Live a better Life
- 3. Smoke less
- 4. Save more Money
- 5. Drink less
- 6. Go to Church more often
- 7. Work more efficiently



- 8. Take better care of my health
- 9. Be more involved at home
- 10. Lose or gain weight.

2017

- 1. Lose weight
- 2. Get Organized
- 3. Save money
- 4. Enjoy life more
- 5. Stay fit and Healthy
- 6. Learn something new
- 7. Quit smoking
- 8. Help others
- 9. Fall in Love
- 10. Spend more time with Family.

So as Kane moves forward to commit to his own resolution, he decided to look up the actual definition. According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac a resolution is a firm decision to do or not do something. Basically, fix a problem. So when Kane thinks about his behaviors and achievements and what he would like to change a lot does come up. For example his humans would love him to stop pretend chewing things to get their attention.

This would be a hard habit to give up since he loves it when they say. “Kane what is in your mouth, and chase him around the room”. So that’s off the table.

According to Catherine Boeckman’s Article in the Farmer’s Almanac, ow did the Tradition of New Year’s Resolution Start, (December 20th, 2022) a resolution should be framed positively, be kept simple, and be defined measurably. Ok Kane took inventory he recognized he conquered his fear of being alone so next he will work to be in the presence of Halloween decorations and maybe even New Year’s party favors. Also he will work towards not eating unspeakable things in his back yard. (No promises on that one) but most importantly he will smell the smells, walk on some new trails, watch over his sister Ruby, meet new friends, and love his family

Happy New Year everyone. May 2023 bring you happiness and Joy.  
Kane Peaslee, Woof  
Columnist, Mascot , Valley Patriot ◇

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# Fighting for Working Class Families in Lawrence, Methen and Haverhill

Pavel Payano

STATE SENATOR, 1ST ESSEX DISTRICT

I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the communities of Lawrence, Methuen, and Haverhill as the State Senator for the First Essex District.

In the Senate Chamber, I am in seat number 13- the seat my predecessor, State Auditor Diana DiZoglio, held. Diana was a fierce advocate for this district during her tenure as state senator, and I am excited to build on her progress.

I am also excited about the ongoing work of moving all of our communities forward.

In the months ahead, I am also excited to collaborate with my State House colleagues to deliver meaningful change to our communities through forward-looking policies.

On Beacon Hill, I will fight to increase funding for early childhood education to make it more accessible and affordable for working-class families.

Education is the great equalizer, and such investments will help create better educational outcomes, address the achievement gaps, and lay a foundation for a better and more equitable region and state. Early education is critical to a child’s social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. A zip code should not determine the quality of education and life a child receives and has.

I will also work to help decrease barriers to mental health and substance misuse programming in our district and across the state. Right now, we are seeing an overwhelming number of people struggling to obtain mental health and substance use treatment.



This is especially true for working-class families who can’t bear treatment costs. While Massachusetts has made great strides to bridge the treatment gaps, there is room to do more and ensure those who need to access treatment can.

Heading into this session, I am also looking forward to working with my fellow delegation members and city officials to help improve our communities, strengthen the economy, and meet the needs of our working-class families.

I know many families are feeling the brunt of inflation, and I want to make sure they know my office is available to help-- whether it’s accessing unemployment benefits or navigating state programs.

We are here and happy to lend a hand.

Pavel Payano is a former Lawrence School Committeeman and City Councilor. He was elected in November to be the state senator for the 1st Essex District which includes; Lawrence, Haverhill, and Methuen. You can email him at: [pavelmpayano@gmail.com](mailto:pavelmpayano@gmail.com) ♦

## WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

# The First Full Month of Winter

Welcome to January and the first full month of the winter season. January is known to be the coldest month of the year. Now that we are past the winter solstice the days will continue to get longer. During January we will gain 49 minutes of daylight.

In contrast the nights will continue to get shorter. Snowstorms can occur in January. Remember even if snow occurs and it is only a coating to half inch roads can still be slippery. In this case you want to leave extra time to reach your destination.

When roads are slippery due to snow or ice you want to keep the speed down. You also want to keep a greater distance from your car and the car up ahead of you. When roads are slippery it takes a longer time for the car to slow down when you have to apply the brakes. If you go at a faster speed and you have to stop all of a sudden, your car will not stop in time and you will collide with the car in front of you. Then if the person in the car behind you is going fast they will collide into you.

In a matter of a short time multi car accidents will result. These accidents can be avoided if you go at a slow speed when the roads are snowy or icy. Another safety measure to take when snow or ice occurs is to make sure you get all the snow or ice off the car. Snow or ice left on the roof of the car can blow off while you are driving and strike the car behind you. This task is very important especially if your car is not in a garage. Also this winter if you have to use your generator make sure you run it outside and well away from your house and garage!

Recapping December even though we had some very cold days especially around Christmas the temperatures for December still ran warmer than normal. For Boston (data from Logan Airport) the average temperature from December was 37.3 degrees. This was 1.6 degrees above normal. Rainfall was 3.75 inches which was 0.55 inches below normal. We did get some snow in December. A very intense low-pressure system on December 16th produced rain and snow. Snow was confined more to the higher elevations like the Berkshires and also the Monadnock region of New Hampshire where Rindge, New Hampshire got 15 inches of snow.

The mountains of Vermont and New Hampshire also got over a foot of snow. Some snow fell in southern New Hampshire though not to the degree of the higher elevations. Behind this storm cold air moved into the region from Canada. As this cold air passed over the warmer Great Lakes it caused very heavy snow and strong winds making for blizzard conditions for the Buffalo, New York area. Snow total reached over four feet for Buffalo. After the December 16th storm another low-pressure system brought heavy rain and strong winds just prior to Christmas. Many areas got over two inches of rain. Rain fell versus snow due to the track of the low-pressure system which went towards the west. The east side of a low-pressure system is the warmer side with winds out of the south and southeast. This storm had strong winds aloft which mixed down to ground level. As a result

many areas along the coast had strong winds. Wind gusts of 60 miles per hour occurred over Cape Cod & the Islands.

Kalmus beach area in Hyannis had a wind gust to 74 miles per hour. This is hurricane force winds which occur when winds reach 74 miles per hour and greater. West Dennis beach on Cape Cod had a wind gust to 72 miles per hour. These strong winds caused power outages due to downed trees and power lines. Strong winds caused power outages off of Cape Cod throughout Massachusetts. Behind this low pressure system, a surge of very cold arctic air came down from Canada. The high temperature for Boston on December 24th Christmas Eve day was 20 degrees. Inland areas had colder temperatures. It seemed like winter was here though it would not last to month’s end. On Friday evening a line of snow squalls formed as the arctic cold front moved through.

A surprise occurred for people in Northern Middlesex County. This band of snow squalls stopped moving for a while and dropped 3-6 inches of snow. Fitchburg got 5.5 inches. Arctic air usually comes in to our region from the northwest though that was not the case this time around. The arctic air dropped all the way down to Texas and the gulf coastal states and then came up to New England on a southwest wind. As this southwest wind blew over milder ocean waters it caused ocean effect snow to occur for Cape Cod and the Islands on Christmas Eve day into Christmas day. Edgartown on Marth’s Vineyard got 7.5 inches of snow. So Cape Cod & the islands along with some areas in Northern Middlesex county had a white Christmas.

The remainder of Massachusetts did not have a white Christmas. The arctic air with some modification went all the way down through Florida. This arctic air did not remain much after Christmas. A significant warmup occurred by New Year’s Eve Day.

The reason for the warm up was the rebuilding of the upper level high pressure system off the east coast known as the Bermuda High. This caused the jet stream to revert back north into Canada putting us on the south side (warmer) side of the jet stream. On Friday December 30th it was unseasonably warm with some areas getting into the 60s; Bedford and Norwood reached 66 degrees. Boston reached 63 degrees which tied the record of 63 set back in 1984. Just 6 days prior Boston only got to 20 degrees, a difference of 43 degrees. Worcester got to 61 degrees on December 30th breaking the old record of 56 degrees set back in 1984. Hartford, CT, also had a new record high. So we went from winter coats, hats and gloves to short sleeves and yes some people wore shorts in the last few days of 2022. What a stark contrast, like a roller coaster!

What will January and the New Year bring?

Will the arctic air return or will the Bermuda High win out. Stay Tuned to next month’s article for the answer. In the meantime, be well and stay safe! ♦

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TOMORROW’S EAGLE~TRIBUNE  
STORIES ... TODAY!



(L to R) Tom Raiche, MV Central Labor Council; Rep. Tram Nguyen; State Senator Bruce Tarr; Javier Bristol, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Haverhill Director; Michael Bevilacqua, VP, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

State Senator Bruce Tarr in conjunction with The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, and Merrimack Valley Central Labor Council recently hosted a toy drive benefiting boys and girls in need this holiday season. This year, the toys were donated to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Haverhill who were this years recipient of the Toy Drive and will pass them along to boys and girls in need.



Your Priorities: Police, Captial Imprpovements, and The Homeless

Estela Reyes

STATE REP., LAWRENCE/METHUEN

My Priorities are YOUR Priorities

Before I begin, I want to thank the readers of The Valley Patriot. I met so many of you throughout the campaign in Methuen and Lawrence, and your support for me and this newspaper is very much appreciated. You were all a big part of the reason I am now a State Representative for Methuen and Lawrence. I also want to thank Tom Duggan and the Valley Patriot team for giving me this opportunity to write a column every month to inform the public about what is going on in your state legislature.

Having just been sworn into office, I want to focus on the issues you told me that you care about the most.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

During the campaign many of you told me that your primary concern is increasing state funding for police and firefighters in Methuen and Lawrence.

Over the next month I will be assessing the amount of money both communities get from the state as well as the formula used to calculate how much money each community gets for public safety. Right now, local taxpayers in Lawrence and Methuen are footing the bill for public safety training. I intend to submit a bill to increase state funding for police and fire training to make sure all state-mandated training is paid for by the state government instead of you at the local level.

**HOMELESS AND ADDICTION**

One thing that I made really clear during the last election was my determination to address the addiction and homeless

crisis in Lawrence and Methuen without making the problem worse. What you told me over and over during the campaign is that to address the addiction and homeless problem three things need to happen:

1) Create a mandatory 30-day commitment for anyone who has overdosed more than once and treated by police, fire, EMTs or medical professionals. As it stands right now, police and medical professionals NARCAN someone who overdoses over and over, only to have them sign themselves out of rehab or a medical facility. This has caused countless deaths.

2) Increase funding and availability of beds for detox centers that can prove a successful track record with long term recovery. This would include funding for our jails and prisons to make sure those who are released back into our community have a support system to stay clean on the outside.

3) Establish an ad hoc committee of those who directly service the addicted and homeless, so that our leaders in Boston have firsthand knowledge of what the needs are, and what current programs are making the problem worse.

**MERRIMACK RIVER AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Of particular interest to the people of Methuen is better funding for infrastructure projects. The capital improvement needs in our schools and public buildings have long been ignored by state and it is my intention to focus on steering more state dollars to improve our roads, buildings, bridges and particularly, I want to secure funding for Rocky Morrison's Clean River Project.

As you may know, The Clean River



Project has pulled more than 100 cars and other items out of the river and they have done so with almost no help at all from state and local officials. While other non-profits are being funded to have meetings about meetings, Rocky Morrison's Clean River Project is making noticeable difference in cleaning up the river.

**THE LAWRENCE SCHOOLS**

Of greatest concern in Lawrence is the control of our Lawrence Public Schools. It is very clear that the state has done a substandard job of educating our children. As bad as the school system was under local control, the facts now show that children were getting a better education under local control than they are right now under state control. I plan to do everything in my power at the state house to force state officials to turn control of the schools back to the people of Lawrence.

To do that, we will need to make some difficult decisions about the way children

are educated in Lawrence. We will need to make compromises, and raise standards and expectations for students AND teachers, as well as administrators and those who support a curriculum designed to make our children fail.

Finally, I want everyone in Lawrence and Methuen to know that my priorities are always going to be based on your priorities. To do that, I need to hear from you on a regular basis so that I know what the needs are in your neighborhoods. I want you to feel free to email me or call my office with any concern you have about upcoming legislation, funding for community projects and ideas for improving our way of life here in the Merrimack Valley.

*Estela Reyes was elected as a state Representative for Methuen and Lawrence in 2022 and is a District City Councilor in the City of Lawrence. You can reach her at Estelaareyes17@gmail.com. ♦*

My Plans for the 2023 Legislative Session

Francisco Paulino

STATE REP., LAWRENCE/METHUEN

Last November I was elected to serve as a State Representative in Lawrence and the East District of Methuen.

As a Methuen resident I have been quietly watching the mayor and city council to get a better handle on how I can help the city in the state legislature.

I have also met with several Methuen officials to hear their concerns and will continue to do so moving forward.

While many of Methuen's current problems are self-inflicted, I do believe

that we can work at the state level to provide the oversight Methuen obviously needs.

As a small business owner myself, I kow how hard it has been for local businesses to recover from the COVID lockdowns and the changing economy.

State regulations and taxes are also making it hard for small business owners to get ahead, as well as the rising costs of daily living.

With Lawrence and Methuen being so close to the New Hampshire border I believe the state should create a tax relief zone for border communities. This

could include a lower sales tax for retail businesses, and fewer reulations for the service industry.

Over the next few months I will be meeting with other small business owners and state representative to work on a small business plan for border communities to ease the burdon on those providing jobs in our community.

I also plan on working very hard over the next two years on identifying the many non-profits in the area who get sizable grants from the state, but don't produce any measuarable improvements in our community. We need to steer funds only to those non-profits that make a significant contribution, one that is measurable and productive.

And while we are talking about state grants, I will be investigating all the grants that come into the City of Lawrence and Methuen to see if they produce mearuable results for the taxpayers. Instead of raising taxes or cutting services, I believe we can spend your money smarter and achieve a better result.

For example; While I stronly support their efforts, there is no reason that groups like "The Movement Family" (TMF) should have to do the heroic work of feeding the homeless and being a bridge between those who are addicted and those who provide detox services.

TMF are all volunteers, they are not funded by the state or the city. The food they provide comes from private citizens and local businesses. A tremendous effort is made by all of these people to do what the state and local government should already be doing - and paying



for. Instead, we waste millions on programs that enable addicts, shut out the homeless, depress the housing market, and create a barrier between those who need public services and those who can provide it.

I believe we can tackle problems like these at the local level with help from the state, and possibly having the state partner with organiations like TMF and House of Mercy to make a significant impact on the homeless and addiction crisis.

Finally, I want the readers of The Valley Patriot to know that I am here to represent you. I am here to help the people of Lawrence and Methuen better navigate the complicated process of dealing with the state on every level.

Together with the rest of the Lawrence delegation: Reps. Moran, Reyes, and Senator Payano, I belive we can and will be able to handle whatever problems Lawrence and Methuen face over the next two years.

You can reach me fpaulino@paulino4staterepresentative.com.



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2020’s Best Restaurants in The Valley

Since the needless COVID lockdowns our Valley Patriot Restaurant reveiwers have found that many of the restaurants we used to love to go to are no longer providing good food or good service or both. So, we just don’t go anymore. However, we have also found restaurants we used to dislike, have stepped up their game and become the best go-to eateries. Therefor, we are updating our “Best Restaurants” list for our reders. Enjoy!

- FINE DINING
- SALVATORES
- PHOENICIAN
- LORETTA
- SEAFOOD

It’s hard to find a good seafood restaurant in the Merrimack Valley with decent prices without going to the beach. However, we found a few places worth spending you money.

New England Seafood - 225 Merrimack St, Methuen - (978) 686-7494


While the bulk of their business is take out, New England Seafood has some of the freshest seafood in the area, with exceptional prices. Our restaurant reveiwers were very disappointed when local seafood places started scaling back on deep sea scallops, but when we went to New England Seafood they weren’t trying to pass off baby scallops as deep sea like so many other local restaurants. While some restaurants have decreased their food portions to save money, New England Seafood gives you a loaded plate for the same price as before the lockdowns.

We reccomend the deep sea scallops, fish and chips (far superior to others) or the blackened swordfish which is hard to find in most seafood places.

BOSTON CHOWDA - 109 Main St. North Andover - (978) 685-9610

- THAI
- BREAKFAST


### TOM DUGGAN’S NOTEBOOK



**MI MEXICO LINDO IN METHUEN REACHES OUT TO DONATE FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS**

**Francisco (left) owner of Mi Mexico Lindo in Methuen donated three trays of food for the homeless last month at the TMF Family dinner for the homeless!**

### WINSTON SAYS!



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# DelRosario Shows Real Leadership in Honoring our Veterans

Last month, there was a scheduled vote before the Lawrence City Council (December 6th) that would have replaced the name of the park at South Lawrence’s Five Corners from “Stockton Park” to “Twomey Park (where the fountain was located on South Union St.).”

The proposal was sponsored by Councilor Greg DelRosario who was so impressed and so inspired by veteran and former City Councilor Roger Twomey, (now deceased) that he wanted the park to bear his name.

“Initially, it was Roger Twomey who worked on getting the funding to fix up this park before he died,” DelRosario told The Valley Patriot. “He was a veteran, a former councilor, and a man who cared very deeply about the people of Lawrence. It’s important that people remember our veterans and their sacrifices.”

While naming a park is rarely controversial, DelRosario’s proposal was met with some opposition because the park is currently named for Civil War

Hero Howard Stockton.

Unlike so many elected officials today, Councilor Greg DelRosario did something refreshing when challenged on his proposal, he sat back and he listened with an open mind.

He listened as veterans, Councilor LaPlante, and residents explained the history of Howard Stockton. He was eager to learn the details that so many Lawrence residents have never bothered to learn, and he embraced the concerns of those who didn’t want him to rename the park.

In the end, DelRosario said he was happy to withdraw his proposal to rename the park, and said that either a new fountain or wall planned for the park could still be named for Roger Twomey while also honoring Howard Stockton by keeping the name of the park.

In today’s political climate, it takes a lot of courage for an elected official to publicly reverse themselves once they put their name on a proposal. Most elected officials see that as a political

defeat or a rebuke of their efforts.

But not Councilor DelRosario.

DelRosario was willing to be open minded and hear the concerns of fellow councilors, local veterans, and even spoke with the family of Roger Twomey in an effort to make sure he was doing the right thing for everyone in the community BEFORE making a final decision.

Councilor DelRosario should be congratulated for his efforts to honor our veterans. He should also be lauded for his commitment to the voters and his willingness to approach these issues with an open mind, while so many other officials make up their minds first and then seek facts to bolster their position.

It’s a rare trait among elected officials.

A quick Bio on Howard Stockton:

- \* A military veteran, having served as a Captain for the Union in the Civil War;
- \* The treasurer for the Essex Company for over 40 years (1880-1932), succeeding the city’s founder and first mayor, Charles Storrow;
- \* The lead official for the Essex Company and gifted several parcels to the city. This one on S. Union Street was gifted by Stockton/Essex Company to the city in 1897 for the benefit of the city’s residents;
- \* The city council highly regarded Stockton and named the park after him in appreciation for his gift and service;
- \* Worked at 6 Essex Street – the Essex Company’s Lawrence office.

Recent Howard Park update:

- \* In 2008-2009, Councilor Twomey advocated for Stockton Park improvements
- \* Councilor Twomey teamed with Sal Lupoli, who offered financial assistance and commissioned a design;
- \* In 2010, Councilor Laplante placed the following item on the agenda, cosponsored by Councilor Twomey and Councilor Rivera: “Doc.#108 – Revealing Stockton Park (aka Five Corners) Draft Improvements”
- \* The project did not advance.

Councilor Twomey left the Council at the



end of 2015;

- \* In 2016, working with Mayor Dan Rivera, Laplante successfully sponsored a \$330K amendment in the Capital Improvement Budget that received Council support and the mayor’s approval;
- \* In 2021, interim Mayor Vasquez targeted the money and began construction;
- \* In 2021, Laplante advocated for 5 artist panels at the site for the purpose of having Lawrence artists depict important Lawrence residents of historical significance;
- \* Mayor DePena completed the project in 2022, keeping the 5 panels.

HONOR FOR COUNCILOR TWOMEY

In 2017 Councilor Twomey had a square dedicated near his house at the intersection of Leeds Terrace and Jefferson Street. Councilor Twomey was alive at the time and was able to enjoy the tribute with his family and friends, and together the city was able to honor the councilor for his years of service – including his support for Stockton Park. The City Council voted unanimously for the dedication. ♦

NOTEBOOK CONTINUED



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St. Lucy Parishioners





This picture was taken in 1970 at the Devens Army Airfield. Art is the soldier without the hat.

## HERO: FROM PAGE 1

describe his first Purple Heart, a bullet came up through his boot, while he was piloting the helicopter, hit his co-pilot in the mouth, wounding the both of them. His second Purple Heart was for a serious bullet wound, received on three attempts to rescue some wounded US Army soldiers from Steve Bird's unit. On that third mission his aircraft was shot out of the sky and they crashed in the jungle mountains surrounded by the enemy, but were plucked out with only moments to spare.

While I was in the hospital in Japan after a follow-up operation, I was interviewed by a Special Forces Major stationed in Okinawa. They were looking for helicopter pilots with a "unique" set of combat credentials. He stood at the end of my hospital bed with a file folder (with what I assumed were some of my military records). He said, "Well, a Medevac pilot. Let me get this straight: You flew dangerous single ship rescue missions at night, in the mountains, across the border, and you're here so you've obviously seen some action. You're my guy."

After recuperating in Japan, I was sent back to Vietnam to complete my tour. Three months later my orders came through. I was to report to the 10th Special Forces Group at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. It was a dream come true - not only did the Special Forces want me, but I would be living between Salem, NH, Lawrence, MA, and Springfield, MA.

In 1971, on his second tour in Vietnam, Art flew an attack helicopter, the Bell AH-1G Cobra. He certainly felt safer flying the Cobra, looking to engage the enemy, in a more offensive role, than he did rescuing wounded American soldiers on his first tour. It was on that second tour that he was awarded his third Purple Heart for a mission in Laos.

I went back to school after I got out of the Army and received my BS in Aviation Management & Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and an MBA in Marketing Management & Organizational Psychology from the University of Florida. Although in my business career I spent twenty years in Chicago, I have lived in Brentwood, Tennessee (just outside of Nashville), since 1997. However, I am still a Boston boy through and through. The Red Sox, Bruins, Celtics, and Patriots have always been my teams! And whenever

the Bruins come to Nashville to play the Predators, I am in the arena.

Steve and I re-connected at a 1st Cavalry reunion with his unit many years ago and have been good friends ever since. We were always comrades, but our brotherhood bond was even stronger being New England neighbors. We visit whenever I am back in the Boston area. In fact, we've been to Fenway Park for a couple of games together.

Art was recently awarded the Order of Saint Michael from the Army Aviation Association of America. The award reads in part: "U.S. Army Captain Arthur Robert Jacobs served as a combat helicopter pilot during two tours in Vietnam. He accumulated an impressive record of combat awards and decorations for heroism, flying skills, and leadership. However, it has been his contributions representing the Army Aviation community since his military days that sets him apart. He has been recognized by his peers in the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association by being elected and serving on its Executive Council for seven years, two of which as President during the challenging pandemic, maintaining the VHPA as a vibrant and robust associations for its over 13,000 active members."

Art's military decorations include the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Soldiers Medal for Heroism, two Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts, twenty-eight Air Medals, three Army Commendation Medals (two for Valor), the Good Conduct Medal, the Korean National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (with Silver Star).

Art joined the business world as a salesperson in the computer industry in Washington, DC in 1975 and quickly rose through the ranks as a Marketing Manager, District Sales Manager, Director of Sales and Sales Management Training, General Sales Manager, Vice President of Sales, and Executive Vice President before starting his own company in 1990. That successful company was acquired by a Fortune 500 company in 1999. In 2001 he founded an international consulting firm (a SDVOSB - Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business) located in the United States, France, and Australia.

Mr. Jacobs has never lost his love and passion for his Army Aviation days. He has been invited as a guest lecturer at



Recent Photo: US Army's Art Jacobs (pilot), Steve Bird (medic), Pete Genecki (machine-gunner). Art was with the 15th Medical Battalion (1st Cav), and Steve and Pete were with Bravo Company, 2/8th Cavalry (1st Cav). "In 2017, I got to take these two guys, who were on the ground beneath my rescue helicopter on July 24, 1968, when I was shot down and wounded, for a flight in a restored Huey that I actually flew in Vietnam. What a thrill for all three of us 49 years after that fateful day."

major universities to describe "Vietnam, The Helicopter War" - educating students and faculty alike on the capabilities, mission, dangers, and the unique role of the helicopter in combat. He has held these lectures for the History & Political Science Departments at Vanderbilt University, Northwestern University, Harvard University, and The University of Florida, as well as numerous local high schools in the Nashville, Tennessee area.

He has made multiple volunteer humanitarian trips to The Ukraine (building houses for couples adopting orphans), Cuba (installing water filtration systems in remote villages), and The Dominican Republic (funding rural schools). Since 2015, he has been invited by The University of Florida's Veteran Entrepreneurship Program (VEP) to be a Platform Instructor and a Business Plan Judge for the over forty veterans each year attending this program as they transition to the civilian job market.

While serving on the VHPA Executive Council, he attended Congressional Hearings in Washington, DC as a witness during testimony and deliberations to establish The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots & Crewmember Monument that was dedicated in 2018 in The Arlington National Cemetery with MG Carl McNair, the Army's first Aviation Branch Chief, as the keynote speaker. Additionally, during his VHPA Executive Council tenure as President he was responsible for overseeing the VHPA Scholarship Program with AAAA and voted to establish an endowment at The Texas Tech University Vietnam Center & Archives (VNCA) to preserve the history of Vietnam helicopter pilots. Art currently serves as the Chairman of the VHPA Legacy Committee.

Captain Jacobs is a Life Member of AAAA, the VHPA, the Distinguished Flying Cross Society, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Special Forces Association, the 160th Night Stalker Association, 1st Cavalry Division Association, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), and the 15th Medical Battalion Association (where he served as President from 2012-13), and he is on the Advisory Council for the National Museum of the United States Army. Mr. Jacobs is also a local USO Volunteer at the Nashville Airport and Fort Campbell.

Art and Steve are two of the heroes

from Vietnam. But as Paul Harvey used to say, "Now you know the rest of the story. Vietnam Veteran Art Jacobs," Art was very quick to tell me that the hero of every infantry soldier that served in Vietnam are the Medics, like his lifelong friend and fellow Vietnam Veteran Steve Bird, men, who despite enemy fire, always advance toward the wounded, and always answers the call. With a Silver Star and three Purple Hearts, nevertheless, US Army pilot Art Jacobs is a "Hero in our Midst".

This Valley Patriot journalist has been asked by several US Navy and US Marine Corp Veterans to caution Veterans when engaging a lawyer to "assist them" in obtaining Veteran's Benefits, that they are entitled to be law. A wiser path is to engage your town's Veteran's agent, the American Legion, your local Congressman, the Disabled American Veterans, or the Veteran's Administration. Numerous law firms are advertising looking to "assist Veterans". I remind my brother and sister Veterans, remember the signs outside the base, "military welcome" or "E-1 and above, no credit required", did those business leaders have our best interest in mind? Make an appointment with your Town Hall's Veteran's Agent before you engage anyone for a fee.

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), and join the American Legion, our mission is working with Congress, Veterans, and the Community, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations and serving all Veterans and their families.



John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's

in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 26 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War Veteran who would like their story told, please email him 2at [John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com](mailto:John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com) ◇



SUE PIAZA’s BOOK REVIEW

The Journal of Jasper  
Jonathan Pierce

by Ann Rinaldi  
Scholastic Inc., NY  
Bookmarkers: 5 of 5  
Genre: Young Adult, Historical Fiction

Ann Rinaldi, award winning historical writer, has done it again. This book is about a trip, an adventure and the lives that changed the world.

Two brothers, Jonathan and Tom, journey to America in the 1600s. Jonathan is on the Mayflower, Tom, the Speedwell. The Speedwell is forced to turn back twice, the second time for leaking. This diary is an account from the voyaging brother to the brother left behind.

There are 102 passengers onboard the Mayflower, they’re divided into Saints and Strangers. The Saints are separatists. After spending years in Leyden, Holland due to religious persecution in England this group of individuals leave for the New World there they will be able to practice their religion as they see fit. Strangers are those individuals that remain loyal to the Church of England. Though this book has elements of religion as its basis, it is a story of exploration and mystery. People head out to parts unknown to encounter events they have never done nor would have been able to do in England.

En route to America the Mayflower battles a near crippling storm resulting in spoiled vittles: moldy biscuits, rancid butter and things crawling in their food. Beer, their only source of untainted liquids, began to sour as well. Besides foodstuff ruined, bedding and their already limited clothing become waterlogged.

We are given the backstory and personal family histories of those aboard the Mayflower and once they reach land the natives are included in this scenario. Lives dissected are explored in the context of the times. Many known individuals are mentioned: Miles Standish, Gov. Bradford, Squanto, Chief Massasoit to name a few.

Besides giving me their past lives, we are told what happened to not only them but also to their descendants. As of the book’s writing, six presidents can trace their ancestry back to those who came over on the Mayflower.

The sprinkling of historical details informs while entertaining. We are privy to the first Thanksgiving, shown, how the natives taught the newcomers how to successfully plant crops, and much more.

As the settlement progresses, we learn that only Saints could vote on important issues in the village. To vote one had to pass a test and answer religious questions in keeping with the Saints’ beliefs. Those

who did not reply as the Saints expected were “warned out” of the village. This laid the seeds for the witchcraft hysteria that follows.

I enjoyed the writing style; it is the perfect medium to deliver this type of information to young adults. While I cannot attest to all the historical elements in this novel they do make for an exciting read.

This diary is written in present day language and style. it’s important to note that reading documents from the 1600s can be quite challenging “s” was written as an “f” for example so words do not always look and sound as we would expect them to. Penned as if it was 1620, young adults, for whom this book’s audience appears to be, probably would not get past the first few pages if written in early English.

However, I would have liked to have some words, I’m assuming them to be the parts of the ship, explained, maybe a glossary or just a one-word explanation.

Were liberties taken with what words were attributed to people? Unless they are in quotes, say from a historical document, one can only assume liberties were taken. Should this bother the reader? I don’t think so. The relevant material appears intact, the extraneous bits are irrelevant, merely backfill for the story. Example: did two troublemakers really call Jonathan, the diarist, a “wharf rat?” I’m not sure it matters. For me, it’s not germane to the comings and goings of those on the Mayflower or the natives they encountered.

I have more of a problem with some words attributed to 13-year-old Jonathan. Examples: “languished” and “recommencing.” Would these really be in his vocabulary?

One point drew me out of the story, the ink. Jonathan falls into an animal trap. Saved by friendly natives and taken to their village he begins writing in his journal again. The bottle didn’t break? Ink spill? Other than this and the diarist’s vocabulary, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It’s a good one to curl up with while sipping a hot cup of cocoa on a cold winter’s evening.

Recommend.

*Susan Piazza, a Navy veteran, is an author, columnist, and blogger. Book One in her historical Ongoing Indigenous Tale series “A Bird Call That Isn’t,” can be found on Amazon at:*

*A Bird Call That Isn’t : <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0829MHLRX>*

*Her new book Destiny’s Daughter, the second book in the series, will be out February 2023. ♦*

THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Allopathic vs. Holistic Medicine

Dr. Pierre Ghassibi  
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Greetings everybody.

Many patients these days are attracted to Integrative Medicine, Eastern Medicine, and other alternatives to Western Medicine. Western Medicine is called Allopathic Medicine. Osteopathic Medicine is very similar now to Allopathic Medicine. Allopathic and Osteopathic are based on results of scientific empirical studies that are subjected to rigorous statistical examinations.

We are made of a physical body and a mind. The mind makes us like, dislike, judge and evaluate. The Allopathic and Osteopathic ways are scientific and attempt to be based on facts. On the other hand, many alternative approaches base themselves on opinions, philosophies and tradition. In my view both approaches have erred. Western Medicine traditionally has attempted to heal the

physical body, forgetting to a large extent to comfort the mind. Alternative Medicine has learned to attract patients with massage, relaxation, meditation, pleasant aromas, beautiful healing clinics that are very appealing to the eyes and offers what it has called therapies from Nature and an atmosphere very seductive to the soul. Sadly, Western Medicine tries to give the raw gift without the attractive wrapping, without the seductive atmosphere of Alternative Medicine. Many of us physicians seem austere to patients and many of us have developed an ego after our extensive and very hard studies, an ego which patients dislike.

Both Allopathic and “ Alternative “ healing ways should combine the trust of Science and the comfort of the soul and lead to the same trustworthy and comforting paradigm. This will give us a holistic approach to healing.

P. Ghassibi, MD,  
[ghassibi@hotmail.com](mailto:ghassibi@hotmail.com)

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# ‘MY BEST TV SHOWS OF 2022’

Bill Cushing  
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

It’s that time of year again. That time when all TV people start thinking about the best shows that they watched over the past year. As usual, it was tough to leave some shows off the list, but here are my picks for the best TV had to offer in 2022.

**Tulsa King** – Sylvester Stallone’s first foray into TV didn’t disappoint. Sly is perfectly cast in the role of recently paroled New York Mafia henchman Dwight Manfredi, who finds himself exiled to Tulsa in a classic fish-out-of-water setup. (Paramount+)

**Ozark** – The final season of the saga of the Byrde family gave us great performances by Jason Bateman Julia Garner, and Laura Linney. A riveting end to an outstanding series. (Netflix)

**For All Mankind** – Apple’s alternate history of the space race continued into the 1990s in season 3 and, once again, delivered great writing, and top notch acting. The action pieces and special effects were very well done. The show also has one of the best casts on TV. (AppleTV+)

**The Bear** – A terrific new series about award-winning chef Carmy, who returns to take care of the family sandwich shop in Chicago after his older brother Michael kills himself. The show perfectly delivers the frantic life of the world it takes place in. Jeremy Allen White gives a career-making performance in the lead role. (Hulu)

**Black Bird** – Apple TV+’s prison thriller about a narcotics dealer who is given the chance to walk free if he can elicit a confession from a supposed serial killer. Paul Walter Houser gives one of the best acting jobs of the year. (AppleTV+)

**Fleishman Is In Trouble** – An intelligent character study about time, middle age, and how we change. Toby Fleishman (Jesse Eisenberg) goes through a major life change. He is divorcing from his wife, Rachel (Claire Danes), and is single for the first time in decades. It’s a fascinating unpacking of how our actions and decisions impact everyone we meet—and are impacted by them in return. (Hulu)

**Star Trek: Strange New Worlds** - ‘Strange New Worlds’ is the best Star Trek series since The Next Generation and is smart, addictive and flat out fun. Trek fans will love it, and if you’re not a Trek fan, this will make you one. A love letter to the original Trek. (Paramount+)

**Bad Sisters** - This dark comedy brings together four sisters in a desperate

attempt to save their endangered sister Grace from her abusive husband. It expertly melds a crazy murder mystery with a touching story of a family in crisis. (AppleTV+)

**The Offer** – This limited series centered on all of the drama behind the scenes of the making of ‘The Godfather.’ Miles Teller, Matthew Goode, and Juno Temple delivered some of the year’s best work. Definitely a must watch. (Paramount+)

**Severance** – A totally unexpected psychological sci-fi thriller that you couldn’t take your eyes off of. ‘Severance’ centers on employees at a corporation who have agreed to have their work consciousness “severed” from their home consciousness. A great cast featuring Adam Scott, John Turturro, Patricia Arquette, and Christopher Walken. The season finale delivered one of 2022’s most thrilling hours. (AppleTV+)

**Station Eleven** – This series follows a group of people that live through a deadly pandemic and what their lives look like afterward. Definitely one of the most gripping, thought provoking, and beautiful shows of the year. (HBO Max)

And my pick for the best TV show of 2022 is....

**Better Call Saul** – It’s no easy task to end a great series in a satisfying way, but this show nailed it. One of the best things about the show was always the chemistry between Bob Odenkirk and Rhea Seehorn and ‘Better Call Saul’ was never better than when it homed in on Jimmy and Kim Wexler, and how their relationship might be doing themselves more harm than good. I still think ‘Breaking Bad’ is the greatest drama series ever made, but ‘Better Call Saul’ is definitely in the conversation, and that is a tremendous accomplishment for a show that many thought was a bad idea. One of the best series of the decade. (AMC)

**Honorable mentions:** 1883, Cobra Kai, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, Barry, House of the Dragon, Reacher, The Crown, Acapulco, Hacks, Three Pines, From Scratch, Jack Ryan, Reboot, Yellowjackets, Stranger Things, The Old Man, Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty, Only Murders in the Building.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column. Follow me on Twitter and Instagram @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ♦

# He is still Serving!

Peter Larocque  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

God Bless You All in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ!! Welcome to 2023!! Our God has seen fit to have us enter this New Year by providing to us the very air in our lungs to breathe the breath of life!! Without Him, we are absolutely nothing!! But with Him, we carry the potential of giving to others the life-changing Gospel of Grace and Peace, the story of Jesus!!

We just finished celebrating the birth of Jesus, as if we ever finish. Sometime later, He began His earthly ministry, He said the following in Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” NKJV. I believe He still is serving today, just from a different location as it says in Hebrews 8:1-2, “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.” NKJV. And in verse 6 of the same chapter, “But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.” NKJV. He is still ministering to us today in a better covenant with better promises from the Right Hand of God as our High Priest!! Because of His one-time sacrifice on the Cross, He now serves us as it says in Hebrews 10:12, “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,” NKJV.

Now, from God’s Right Hand and as our High Priest, He says to us as we enter 2023, Fear Not!! For I Am to you what you need Me to be!!

Just like His Father told Moses in Exodus 3:14, “And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” NKJV. And once again in Exodus 15:26, “and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the

LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.” NKJV.

While here on earth, Jesus pointed to himself and said,

#1. To the Hungry, I Am the Bread of Life: John 6:35.

#2. To the Blind, I Am the Light of the World: John 8:12.

#3. To the Oppressed, I Am the Door: John 10:9.

#4. To Those who need, I AM the Good Shepherd: John 10:11.

#5. To the Sick and Dying: I Am the Resurrection and the Life: John 11:25.

#6. To Those who have Lost Their Way: I Am the Way: John 14:6.

#7. To Those who want to Bear Much Fruit: I Am the Vine: John 15:1.

#8. To the lonely: I Am with you always: Matthew 28:20.

#9. To Those who need a Firm Foundation: I Am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last: Revelation 1:11.

Before Jesus went to the Cross, He said to His disciples in John 14:2, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.” NKJV. And again, in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” NKJV.

Jesus is The Great I Am, He said to Moses and again to His Disciples while here on earth, Fear Not!! I AM to you, that’s you and me, what you need Me to be!!

Let’s enter 2023 without Fear, but instead filled with all Hope!! My Prayer for you all is the same as the Apostle Paul’s prayer in Romans 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” NKJV.

Love to all of you,  
Peter Larocque  
peterlarocque@hotmail.com ♦

## GENEST: FROM PAGE 9

Here’s what the Lowell Sun said when Phil Thibault lost his selectman’s race in 2020.

“It just might be that in Thibault’s case, familiarity breeds more contempt than content.

Buoyed by the backing of several town influencers – including former selectmen – one would have thought it was his election to lose, which he did.

It could also be payback for the decision by that screening panel he ran not to put interim – now permanent – Town Manager Ann Vandal on the list of finalists for that position.”

And speaking of conflict of interest and making money, later that year, in October of 2020, the Lowell Sun exposed some of Phil Thibault’s self-serving behavior at DATV.

“Imagine if Phil Thibault had been elected to the Dracut Board of Selectmen.

Even though the Dracut Access Cable Television board of directors, on which Thibault serves, is technically not a government body, Thibault apparently thought there was nothing improper with landing a \$10,000 contract to help design DATV’s new studio, as Thibault is an architect.”

If there’s one thing you can count on when it comes to Phil Thibault, it’s consistency. He’s a perennial victim, loser, and crybaby. But if I were a betting man, I’d wager Thibault is likely to “win” those steak knives.

—Brian Genest is the producer and host of Eye On Dracut, winner of the Hometown Media Award for News, which airs on DATV Channel 8 and online at DracutTV.org. ♦



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Property Sales, Foreclosures for Dec., 2022 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)



Northern Essex Registry of Deeds  
M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

CA Investment Tr & Yvon Cormier Tr, Xin & Jeanne Xu, \$1,600,000, 13 Robert Dr Unit 4-3  
Peterson Family Realty Tr & Laurie & Brek Peterson Tr, Christopher & Kristyn Faucher, \$1,150,000, 10 Hitchcock Farm Rd  
J&B Kaslow Realty Tr & John Kaslow Tr, Catherine A Crean 2013 Revocable Tr & Catherine & Kevin Crean Tr, \$1,050,625, 14 Swan Ln Unit 9-2  
Peter Retelle, Richard Retelle, \$1,000,000, 82 Bellevue Rd  
John & Maryann Rex, Daniel & Kristina Lococo, \$950,000, 92 Central St  
First Kliorn Family Revocable Tr of 2004 & Lucy & Mikhail Klorin Tr, Dennis Family Living Tr & Jeanne Dennis Tr, \$865,000, 3 Overlook Dr  
Ryan & Ashley Mcnamara, Pankaj & Priyanka Chauhan, \$850,000, 5 Ridge Hill Way  
Robert Schneider, Daniel Springer & Siobhan Norton, \$817,000, 7 Buchan Rd  
Ronald Musterait, Brett & Krystal Herlihy, \$810,000, 3 Larchmont  
Fang Zhao & Geliang Song, Pointia Desravines & Jeancius Jean , \$780,000, 71 Rattlesnake Hill Rd  
Mathew & Thushara John & Thushara James , Alexis Duran & Madeline Villanueva, \$770,000, 10 Lovejoy Rd  
Rose Ferriera & Rose Morse, Moumita Das, \$740,000, 7 Marilyn Rd  
Timothy T Lindblad Family Tr & Susan B Lindblad Family Tr& Susan & Timothy Lindblad Tr, Matthew & Molly Labonte, \$725,000, 10 Lincoln St  
Anastasia Enos & Anastasia King, Shuo Huang & Tingting Xi, \$660,000, 168 High Plain Rd  
Gibbons 2022 Tr & Raymond Gibbons Tr, Penelope Mejia, \$560,000, 13-15 Tewksbury St  
Erik Day & Louise Hart Est, 11 Heather Dr Realty Tr & Dennis Sullivan Tr, \$470,000, 11 Heather Dr  
Kingdom Trust Co & Kathleen Cyrier, Samuel Brooks, \$425,000, 22 Railroad St Unit 514  
Helio Lombana, Leonidas & Tanya Derekliis, \$418,000, 200 Brookside Dr Unit 200A  
Patricia Robitaille, Nicholas Bove, \$375,000, 69 Corbett St  
Pulte Homes Of New England LLC, Daniel Madera & Ana Demadera, \$337,500, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 208  
Gupta Andover Realty Tr & Subash Gupta Tr, Ramfy Castillo, \$232,000, 6 Crescent Dr  
Nine Stouffer Realty Tr & Jeanne Mickle & John Nugent Tr , Edwin Heredia, \$1,400,000, 9 Stouffer Cir  
Frances Cohan Est & John & Michael & Mary Cohan & Mary Dascoli, Mathew & Thushara John, \$896,000, 6 Algonquin Ave  
Shalia & Jeffrey Gwiazda, Signature Page Investments LLC & Stellson LLC, \$889,500, 51-53 Elm St  
Peter Spencer , David Duncan & Patricia Nunez, \$800,000, 6-8 Brechin Ter  
Larry & Kaori Kelts , Matthew Partridge & Lucy Sanford, \$719,000, 135 Abbot St  
FSB Homes LLC, Jessica Buonopane, \$548,000, 9-11 Walnut Ave Unit A  
Charlotte & Sam Daher & Grace Milner & Monique Stewart, Bettencourt Capital LLC, \$280,000, 40C Washington Park Dr Unit 10

LAWRENCE

La Belle Maison LLC, DLC Phase One LLC, \$3,865,000, 398-402 Andover St  
59-71 Merrimack LLC, Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc, \$3,050,000, 59,61-65,71 Merrimack St  
82-86 South Broadway LLC, Beverly Essex LLC, \$2,100,000, 82,84,86 South Broadway  
Beverly Essex LLC, Mcbee Development LLC, \$2,000,000, 183,198-200 Parker St  
375-379 Haverhil Lawrence LLC, Kimball 12 Pine LLC, \$1,980,000, 375-379 Haverhill St  
Deborah & Steven Simard, Shamesh LLC, \$849,900, 212-214 Boxford St  
DLC Phase One LLC, F&E Properties LLC, \$800,000, 169-171 West St  
Linda & Joseph Ratte, Wigberto & Rebecca Cruz, \$729,000, 340 Mt Vernon St  
Jorge Orsini & Joseromeo Uselo, Diandra Mota & Oliver Montas, \$700,000, 84 Salem St  
Bay Flow LLC, Dayanna & Erick Abarca, \$700,000, 501-503 Andover St  
Patricia Bachand, Vinette & Fabian & Miguel Fabian, \$680,000, 10 Wachusetts Ave  
Hassan Hussein, Denciles Hinojosa & Carme De Disla & Deuris Tavaréz, \$660,000, 360-362 South Broadway  
Berlin Sanchez & Pablo Morel, Littman Esteban, \$650,000, 83-85 Thornton St  
Gina Alexis, Sandra Gonzalez & Alexandra & Ana Paredes & Juan Martinez, \$650,000, 43-45 Salem St  
Jessie & Denise Vidal, DS Calderon LLC, \$650,000, 51-53A Berkeley St  
Jose & Maria Pineda & Mary Vital, Cosme Ramos, \$640,000, 3-7 Farley St  
Mlala Family trust & Melissa Fili Tr, Aduaris Torres & Juan Tavares, \$630,000, 24-26 Ferguson St  
Lawrence Knights of Columbus Building Associations, FTL Enterprises LLC, \$625,000, 511-515,517 Andover St  
Robert Ciccolini Jr, Lervison Santo, \$601,000, 170 Salem St  
Jose Geronimo, Genisis Gomez & Jean Santos, \$565,000, 8-10 Merrimack View Ct  
Ingrid Dejesus, Santa Polanco, \$500,000, 19 Clinton St  
Idalio Guzman & Michael Reinoso, Lordysmilet Batista & Jean Santiago, \$467,500, 18 Rollins St  
Miguel Cuevas, Nelida Leonetti, \$465,000, 127 Garden St  
Luis Diaz, Esther Martinez & Allan Zambrano & Igor Castillo, \$455,000, 45A Rollins St  
Louise Santomassimo, Moises Camilo, \$450,000, 12 Leroy Ave

Marinelli Family Tr & Paul & Maureen Marinelli Tr, Christopher Delarosa, \$445,000, 229 Mount Vernon St  
15 Nelson Realty Tr & Steven Derosa Tr, Yener Rodriguez, \$445,000, 15 Nelson St  
Joanne Culhane, Ratte Revocable Tr & Joseph & Linda Ratte Tr, \$443,500, 7 Grant Rd  
Miguel Gil & Ana Fabian, Victor Guzman , \$435,000, 1 Border St  
Todd & Kendra Laplante & Kendra Dellicolli, Felix Garcia & Norfeny Ventura, \$420,000, 214 Carleton St  
Oneida Cabrera , Yngrid Otero & Luis Sosa & Nidia Hernandez- Galdamez, \$410,000, 22-24 Newton St  
Erasmus Ruiz, Empire Investments LLC, \$405,000, 49-51 Bowdoin St  
Thomas & Mary Edwards, JMF Realty LLC, \$385,000, 51 Smith St  
Joyce K Gray Irrevocable Tr & Robert Gray Tr, Jacqueline Marte & Jose Dilone, \$385,000, 4 Vandergrift St  
Jason Paradis, Wendy Pujols & Hector Ogando, \$375,000, 56 Railroad St  
Matthew Collins , Laura Cuevas, \$365,000, 23 Saxonia Ave Unit 23  
William Myers, Adalgisa Jimenez & Hector Paniagua & Francisca Nunez, \$365,000, 36 Kenneth St  
Jose Francisco, Elvis Perez & Hardy Ramos, \$365,000, 36 Border St  
Wigberto & Dina Cruz, Yanira De La Rosa Jimenz & Jhovanny Avila, \$350,000, 187 Ferry St Unit 2B  
Earl Guptill Jr Est & Lillian Velasquez, Charlie Luna, \$350,000, 42 Shattuck St  
Avatar Properties, Long Term Rentals LLC, \$325,000, 65 Holly St  
Ruben Matos, Osvlado Liriano, \$320,000, 5 Freeman Ct  
Giovanni & John Sorello, Nicolas Jerez, \$255,000, 469C Hampshire St  
Jessica Green , Edwin Frometa, \$222,000, 312 Water St Unit 25  
Jessica Green & Jessica Green , Jose Cabrera & Miguel Castillo, \$220,000, 262 East Haverhill St Unit 7  
John Diberardinis, Arnaldo Marquez, \$190,000, 260 east Haverhill St Unit 22  
MCR Re Invest LLC, Kara Mcgee, \$170,000, 90 Beacon St Unit 1  
Spanish Free Methodist New Hope Church, Eversource Gas Co of Massachusetts, \$67,500, Saunders St

METHUEN  
Methuen Council #4027 Kinghts of Columbus Inc, Wengs Garden LLC, \$1,350,000, 462-462R Broadway  
Toll Ma Land III LP, Gary & Denise Lozowski, \$974,806, 50 Phoebe St Unit 96  
Dennis Family Living Trust & Jeanne Dennis Tr, Roy Forsberg & Suzanna Stella-Forsberg, \$855,000, 74 Pine Tree Dr Unit 128

Jr Builders Inc, David Bennett, \$820,000, 15 Cooper Ln  
Toll Ma Land III LP, James & Judith Cropper, \$750,252, 54 Phoebe St Unit 94  
Douglas & Maureen Naffah, Darrel & Rebecca Dellorto, \$735,000, 7 Copley Dr  
Jules Marcelin & Mirlande Gassant, Steven Fawehinmi, \$700,000, 4 Sadie Ln  
John & Jessica Musumarra, Edwin & Guillermina Duran, \$675,000, 68 Pelham St  
Elmano & Jacira Rodrigues, Jancarlos Pichardo & Ramon Pichardo-Cleto, \$650,000, 6 College Ln  
6-12 Hampshire St LLC, One Three LLC, \$650,000, 1-3 Haverhill St  
Jako Realty Tr & Mark Turmel Tr, Alexandre Costa, \$650,000, 60 Pine St Unit 1  
GSDC Development Corp, Kevin & Sondra Lastra, \$625,000, 25 Baremeadow St  
Will & Taylor Panzini & Taylor Hume, Jc Luant & Ruthenee Nhem, \$580,000, 1 Clayton Ave  
Renato Souza & Girlene Desouza, Carlos Delgado & Giselle Torres, \$580,000, 20-22 Huntington Ave  
Swiec Family Tower Realty Tr & Susan Ciras Tr, Hector & Dilson Gomez, \$570,000, 17-19 Tower St  
Rosea Realejo, Jonathan Agosto & Andre Harris , \$525,000, 15 Birch Ave  
Judith & David & Ryan & Tatum Hajjar, Michael Eyssi, \$515,000, 42 Oneida St  
Mark Palermo Jr, Saskia Whallon, \$509,000, 3 Cochrane Cir  
Modesto & Elba Almengo, Noah Famisa, \$505,000, 20 Thissel St  
Salvator & Jessica Baio, Angel Rivera & Carlos Cartagena, \$505,000, 4 Dewey St  
Nicole & Scott Barta & Nicole Gagne, Wagner Martinez & Jose Gonzalez, \$500,000, 244 Oakland Ave  
Termini Realty Tr & Agostino Rinella Tr, Alexis Moreta, \$488,000, 124 Oak St  
Deborah Reed, Michelle Ribeiro, \$485,000, 3 W Bedford St  
Bradley & Adria Bremhorst, Angelin Pena & Adelfi De La Rosa, \$485,000, 5 Youngfarm Rd  
First Landing Investments LLC, Reem Property LLC, \$476,500, 20 Pond St  
Thomas Oshea & M Lorraine Daly Est, Jonathan & Steven Hewey, \$475,000, 139 Anderson Dr  
Top-Tier Investements LLC, Karla Gibbons & Marco Padilla, \$470,000, 268 Lowell St  
Arelys Gonzalez & Yony Pena, Wilson Vasquez & Wilfred Velasquez, \$469,900, 16 Pleasant View St  
Paul & Kierstyn Dewolfe, Jacquelin Cepeda, \$460,000, 8 Vista Cir  
Leonard Michaud Tr & Christopher Michaud Tr, First Landing Investments LLC, \$460,000, 20 Pond St  
Home Sweet Homes Solutions LLC, Jose Santiago , \$460,000, 5 Lancaster Rd  
Stephen & Linda Deluca & Corrine Lurvey & Linda Wnek & Paula Lydon & Paul Lyden, Mariela & Anolbia Mejia, \$455,000, 14 Greendale St  
Linda Dunn, Steven Melo & Linda Houle, \$440,000, 50 Deborah Ave  
Caldwell Family Revocable Tr & Cheryl & Gregory Caldwell Tr, Max Ducap-Laguerre & Bridget Clements, \$425,000, 44 Westland St  
Albert & Therese Tine Irrevocable Tr & Daniel Tine Tr, Wilberto Bautista, \$422,000, 32 Josephine Ave



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# Methuen High, St. John's Prep Service the Homeless



St. John's coach John Zimini of Dracut bought the St. John's Prep. Varsidty Hockey Team visited TMF's Family Dinner for the Homeless in Lawrence to help feed the homeless and learn about those addicted on the streets.



The Methuen Rangers Football team volunteered their time last month to feed the homeless and learn about servicing those less fortunate in Lawrence at the TMF Family Dinner for the Homeless at the Buckley Garage.

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REAL ESTATE FROM PAGE 21

Allison Kaelin & Allisin & Jeffrey Kalinoski, Phuong Pham, \$400,000, 16 Druid Hill Ave Unit 16

Fitzgerald Family Irrevocable Tr & Robert Fitzgerald Tr & Maura Noreen Tr, Lucia Pereyra , \$400,000, 27 Noyes St

Ernest & Joanne Levesque, Charlene Lavesque, \$400,000, 9 Vineyard Ln Unit 19

Patrick Oconnell Est & Terrence Oconnell, Jared Nartiff, \$390,000, 26 Albert St

Allen LLC, Marisol Figueroa, \$383,000, 53 Thornton Ave

Sharyn Mosher, Christopher Kraby, \$369,000, 42 East Brook Pl

Ramon Javier & Ramona Gomez, Ricardo & Patricia DeSouza, \$360,000, 68 Center St

Robert Imhof & Nanci Hill, Jeyson Henriquez, \$350,000, 114 Elm St

Kenneth & Richard Law, Benchmark Realty Tr & Randall Hart, \$340,000, 22 Magna Rd

Martin & Patricia Gosselin, 57 Salem Street LLC, \$330,000, 57 Salem Street

Jo-Ann & Joel Huddleston, Jomary Ortiz & Marta Sudanowicz, \$325,000, 10 Christopher Dr Unit 35

Bumali Yiga, Kim Biele, \$310,000, 21 Hampshire Rd Unit 111

Cora Lavasseur, James & Julie Mcleod, \$300,000, 32 Bruce St

Chin & Chong Park & Jeany Lee, Kayla Julien Jeremy Portorreal, \$290,000, 945 Riverside Dr Unit 16D

Thomas & Barbara Hargreaves, Anna Hargreaves, \$220,000, 26 Dewey St

Jonathan Miller, Winwin Properties LLC, \$195,000, 235 Oakland Ave Unit 2

Wayne Arleque, William Ahearn, \$50,000, Lowell Blv

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Ronald & Donna Arbo, Jennifer & John Liddy, \$1,151,111, 137 Berkeley Rd

Maureen Daher, Roger Bel & Ashley Wagner, \$1,070,000, 1675 Great Pond Rd

Anthony & Joan Pusateri, Adrienne & Adam Ramos, \$1,000,000, 115 Winter St

James W Simpson & Dawn M Simpson Living Tr & James & Dawn Simpson Tr, Robert & Tamiaka Hunter, \$960,000, 280 Gray St

Scott & Tara Diamond, Ilir & Kendra Kavaja, \$899,000, 1806 Salem St

Giard Family Realty Tr & Beverly Longueil Tr, Ridgewood Cemetery Association Inc, \$775,000, 419 Johnson St

Kailey & Jonathan Laflamme & Kailey Munroe, Erin Schroeder & James Tombari, \$735,000, 20 Ferncroft Cir

Michael & Patricia Schruender, Christopher Mcdonough, \$707,500, 264-266 Greene St

Amy & Daniel Hoffenberg, Michael & Elizabeth Mclaughlin, \$670,000, 41 Lyman Rd

MHRE LLC Tr & Waverly Road Realty Tr, Phillip & Adrian Russo, \$580,000, 217 Waverly Rd Unit 1

Katie & Matthew Rae, Beverly Spicer, \$570,000, 39 Richardson Ave

Park Way Realty Tr & Paul Streeter Tr , Katherine Streeter & Shawn Brennan , \$550,000, 14 Park Way

Leslie Lopez & Leslie Kulpinski, Samuel & Emma Shields , \$549,900, 19 Little Rd

Landers Nominee Tr & Maureen Landers Tr & Susan Howlett Tr, Untamed

Dream LLC, \$495,500, 28 School St

Cirrone Family Tr of 2014 & James & Leslie Cirrone Tr, James Hudson Jr, \$490,000, 26 Phillips Ct

Julie & Ryan Tankersly, Dikesh Bohaju & Shrijana Shrestha, \$450,000, 15 Commonwealth Ave

Raymond M Macedonia Rovocable Tr & Marybeth Mcinnis Tr, George Tombarello, \$400,000, 28 Foxwood Dr

Sinesio Desousa, Alyssa Smiley, \$360,000, 72 Jefferson St Unit 55

Lynn Wedge, DBD Main Properties LLC, \$337,500, 579A Chickering Rd Unit 3

Anila Desai, Farid Mechdoud & Loubna Mouyarden, \$289,900, 21 Fernview Ave Unit 10

Elizabeth Hopkins, Panorama Investment Group LLC, \$286,000, 18 Village Green Dr Unit 12

Marie & Patrick & James Daw Jr & Margaret Waldron , Brenten Anderson, \$270,000, 148 Main St Unit 402

Michelle & Marc Bellemare, Helene Wilder Tr & Helene Wilder Tr, \$267,549, 25 Farrwood Ave Unit 4

Matthew Fuller, James Fitzgerald, \$225,000, 23 Fernview Ave Unit 1

AG Khan, CRV Dental Group LLC, \$150,000, 33 Walker Rd Unit 8

Dnaiel & Jeanmarie Goudreault, Eden Alaxanian & Eric Oconnell, \$680,000, 345 Berry St

Mad Nominee Tr & Maryann Detora Tr, Matthew Lewis, \$573,000, 7 Heath Rd

Jeffrey Ahern Est & Douglas Ahern, Jean Paul & Marc Obas, \$375,000, 315 Green St Unit 1



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